the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper

Friday October 14, 1994 Volume 15, Number 10

Concordia University Montreal, Quebec

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SINN FÉIN LEADER RALLIES FOR PEACE TALKS NOW

by Paul Hainsworth

The time has come for the British government to begin negotiations for peace in Northern Ireland, said Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams.

Speaking at University of Toronto last Tuesday and to over 300 at Concordia last night, he urged his audiences to pressure the British government to begin talks with Irish groups.

"Use your influence within any organization you belong to," Adams said. "I'm not looking for support for the IRA or Sinn Féin, I want support for peace and unity in Ireland."

Adams claimed that Canada and the United States were being pressured by the British government to prevent him from rallying international support for his cause.

"Resistance from the British establishment to having me in Canada was because Britain fears you," he said. "They're afraid of you using your influence to get information to your people."

Adams was finally granted a special ministerial visa requiring approval by the House of Commons.

British PM taking his time

Sinn Féin, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, announced a cease-fire on August 31 and has been seeking negotiations since then with the British government. Over the past 25 years, the IRA has been responsible for terrorist actions against the British military presence in Northern Ireland. The country is currently in a state of emergency.

British prime minister John Major, wanting proof that the cease-fire is permanent, has said he will not meet with Sinn Féin until three months after the start of the IRA cease-fire.

But Adams said Major is "engaging in tactical maneuvering." He called it "an attempt to reduce the initial momentum of cease-fire and to dilute the thrust forward."

"Of course we want permanent peace," Adams said. "Major understands that the IRA wants a permanent peace plan and an end to injustice in Ireland."

Yesterday's cease-fire of two militant loyalist groups—Ulster Freedom Fighters and Ulster Volunteer Force—means an end to violence on both sides of the Irish conflict.

Adams was pleased with the this latest development saying the situation has been moved forward another step.

"Now the only military force currently engaged is the British," he said. "The onus is on Major to respond to these series of initiatives."

Adams was optimistic that the British will begin peace talks before Christmas.

There are three main points which Adam's wants to negotiate with the British government:

-De-militarize the six counties of Northern Ireland.

-Restore democratic rights to all people in the area.

-Agree to the constitutional future of Ireland.

"They will find it harder to resist talking. All their resources and propaganda are now being used to excuse why they are not negotiating with us."

British Involvement creating conflict

Adams blamed the violence and conflict of the past twenty-five years on British intervention in Ireland.

"The conflict lies in British involvement. They created division, conflict and deprivation," he said. "Britain said it came to Ireland to civilize the barbarians. Since they came, the divisions of the last twenty-five years have been a sad record."

In his speech, Adams outlined what Sinn Féin hopes to accomplish in discussions with Britain.

"The right of the Irish people to self-determination is our primary objective," he said. That requires an end to British rule, he added.

"We need to restore democratic rights."

He pointed to the lack of freedom of movement, freedom of speech, the right to vote and an end to discrimination.

"We want a society that is non-sexist, just, and which can support that diversity of the Irish people."

He was quick to dispel fears that Sinn Féin would resort to violence to seek the unification of Ireland.

"Unification could only happen if democracy is achieved," he said. "What replaces British rule is a matter for the people to work on."

In response to the argument that Northern Ireland already voted by referendum to remain in union with England, he claimed that the six counties that comprise Northern Ireland were gerrymandered to ensure a unionist majority.

Gerrymandering is a method of changing electoral boundaries so that anti-unionists would not hold a majority in any one county.

Instead, Adams wants a referendum for all of Ireland to determine whether citizens want unification.

"Our revenge will be the laughter of our children in a peaceful, free, prosperous Ireland," Adams said.

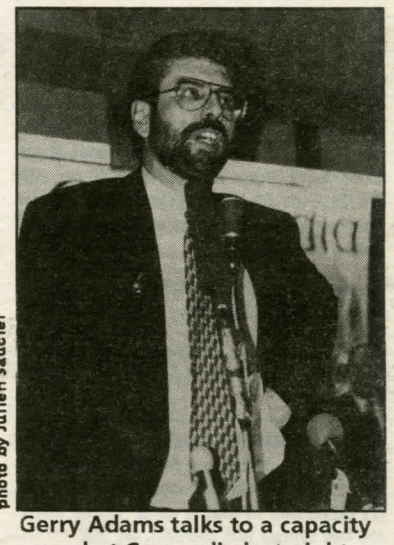

photo by Julien Saucier

Gerry Adams talks to a capacity crowd at Concordia last night

Student coalition demands lower bus fare

by Penny Lee Colbourne

You pay your tuition fees, you labour over ten page research papers, you stress at the word exam, but according to Montreal's transit commission (STCUM), after you reach the magical age of 18 you are no longer considered a student.

This week a coalition of 12 universities and CEGEPs around Montreal presented the STCUM with a petition of 4500 signatures asking for reduced transit rates for all students, regardless of age.

Currently, students above the age of 18 pay $1.75 per metro/bus ticket, and $43 for a monthly pass, more than double the under-18 fare. And this month the STCUM announced they would be increasing transit fares again.

Chris Papp, the President of the Dawson Student Union and head of the coalition, organized the student meeting with Treffle Lacombe, director general of the STCUM. Local municipal election candidates from the MCM and Montrealer's parties also attended to express their support.

"I was not very impressed with the meeting", Papp said. "We basically got a lesson on their [the STCUM] budget."

"The STCUM has a working budget of 740 million dollars a year. One-and-half per cent of that budget is put aside in case of emergencies which if not used, is carried over to the next year. That is around 14 million dollars sitting there, in many cases, not being used," he added.

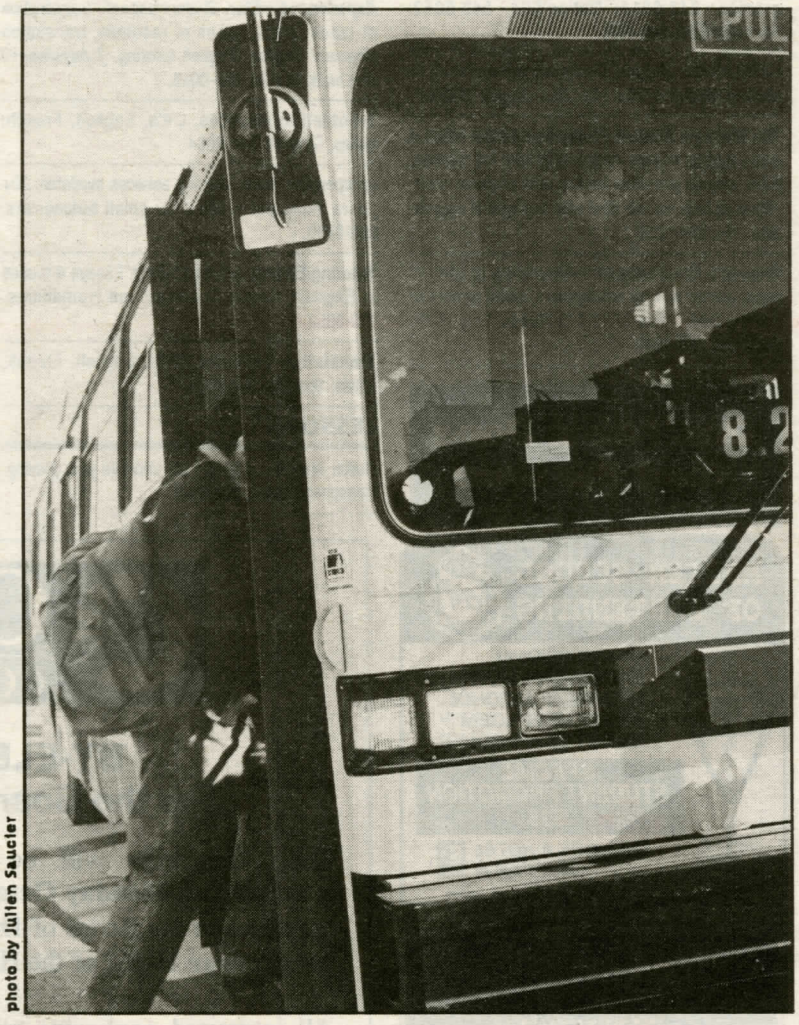

photo by Julien Saucier

The STCUM's Lacombe said that it was financially unfeasible to offer all students a reduction.

"If we cut transit rates for all students, it is going to cost the STCUM 15 million dollars in lost revenue. Who is going to pay for that lost revenue?" Lacombe said.

Prior to 1991, the government subsidized the reduced fares for students under the age of eighteen, the idea being for school children to take public transit to school. After 1991, this support was cut off by the government and the STCUM was forced to go elsewhere for funds.

At present, 300 million dollars each year is subsidized by the municipalities of Montreal to pay for the reduced fares, of which five million dollars will be cut this year.

Lana Grimes, vice-president administration of Concordia's student union, attended the meeting with the STCUM as well. She called it a "fact-finding mission", and said that Concordia intends to pursue the matter and hopefully come up with some proposals for at future meetings.

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*-Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Friday, October 14

"World Food Day" at the YWCA. To acknowledge women's contributions to the World food supply, the Women's Y will host an information fair on women farmers in Quebec, India and Africa featuring videos, documentation, discussions and displays. 10 am–6 pm, Info: 866-9941, ext. 314.

GENERAL

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Men's Group: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. Women's Group: TBA. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

Concordia Irish Society meets every Tuesday at 8 pm, P-103. Info: 848-7411.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Info: 848-7414.

Aid for Rwandan Refugees is still being collected by the YWCA. Money and first aid supplies(blankets, sterilized gauze, bandages, hand soap etc.) are desperately needed to assist refugee women and their families. Info: 866-9941, ext. 293.

Want to talk? We can help you with your personal, educational and vocational concerns. Confidentiality is ensured. Counselling and Development: 848-3545, 3555.

Birth Control Workshops to explore options for men and women. Mondays at 12 noon, 2155 Guy, Rm. 407; Wednesdays at 12:30, AD-121. To register, call 848-3565.

Volunteers needed to provide recreation activities and tutoring for Inner City Youth Project. Serious applicants only. Info: 848-7945.

International Socialists Students Association meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, in H-771. Join our weekly political discussions. Info: 521-1983.

Head and Hands, a non-profit community health and social service centre, needs volunteers to tutor highschool students in French, English, Math etc. Info: Bruce, 481-0277, 481-3643.

Volunteers needed to help provide services for disabled students. Info: 848-3525 (voice and TDD).

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. Info: Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Czesc!!! Polish students' association is looking for new members. Info: Joanna, 486-5179.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7474.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Peer Helpers has moved. Drop by our new offices at 2090 Mackay St.

Self-knowing & Communication. An opportunity to work on inter-personal communication skills and learn problem-solving strategies. Every second Friday beginning Oct. 7, 1:30–3 pm, Annex WF. Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Compeer Montreal, a non-profit community service which provides friendship and support services to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions, sponsored by Campus Ministry, will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting." Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Low-income Students Network will explore strategies and resources for low-income students. Info: 848-2859.

Latin American Students Organization invites all students interested in joining to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

Concordia Writers' Group meets every Thursday, 3:30, HB-301. Info: Bill, 684-3502.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program each semester, in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Volunteers must meet with one of the chaplains ahead of time. Info: Peter Coté, 848-3590.

Pakistani Students Association needs volunteers to help out with events. Info: Adil, 287-0774.

Building Bridges: a discussion group for men and women on sexuality and gender issues. Gay and lesbian positive. Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Multi-Faith dialogue brings together members of the University community for a *brown-bag* lunch discussion designed to promote understanding and dialogue between members of different religious faiths. Info: Matti Terho, 848-3590.

Brasilian students interested in forming a student association, call Edna, Prado: 845-9322 or Adriana: 735-0133

Weekend Meals at Benedict Labre House, a hospitality centre for poor and homeless people in Montreal. Volunteers will help prepare and serve one meal there each weekend. Info: Peter Coté, 848-3586.

The NDG Anti-Poverty Group needs computer donations (286 mg. or better) and donations of office equipment & supplies as well as knick knacks, clothing, dishes, books etc. for our upcoming fund-raising flea market. Info: 489-3548.

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

WOMEN

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

TAMS–Support for Teenage mothers: food bank, daycare, group activities and weekly meetings. Info: 866-9941, ext. 314.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-9354.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 954-0170, Basia.

Nice Jewish Girls: Jewish, lesbian/bisexual and interested in being part of a discussion and/or spiritual/social/activist group? Call the CQC at 848-7414 and leave lots of messages.

The Concordia Student Safety Patrol needs female volunteers! If you have an extra 6 hours/month, please sign up. 848-8700.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Concordia Women's Centre provides a lounge area for women in the University Community, referral and support, information and community notice boards. 2020 Mackay, downstairs. 848-7431.

Jeunes Avec Toit offers shared, inexpensive accommodation for young women (18-30) in need of shelter who wish to upgrade their job or life skills. Referral services, individual support, life skills programs. Info: Doreen or Mary Denis, 769-0855.

Literacy Centre. Anglophone women aged 16 and older who need help learning to read and write should contact the Women's Y. Personal tutoring services are free and based on each student's special needs. For more information, to volunteer or refer someone, call 866-9941, ext. 278.

Volunteers Needed! Parenthèse is a unique playgroup for immigrant moms and their children and is looking for volunteers. Tues. or Thurs. 1-4:15 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

YWCA's Active Listening and Referral Service needs volunteers to lend an empathetic ear to women in need. Fridays 10 am to 6 pm. Fifteen hour training course required. Info: Lynda Tétrault, 866-9941, ext. 293.

Don't be Whitewashed! Non-chlorine bleached, environmentally-friendly women's hygiene products available at Q-PIRG, 2135 Mackay. Info: 848-7585.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

CLSC metro: Support Group for women living in abusive situations. Info: 934-0354, Angela Idelson.

The Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Each course provides verbal and physical techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Info: 284-1212.

Women's Employment Counselling at the "Y" helps women to seek employment, return to work or explore their interests and aptitudes. Eng. & Fr. Free. Info: 866-9941.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

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WP 5.1–$1.25/ page. Next to Loyola, also downtown pick-ups. 482-2816, Walter.

West Island Students! Word processing, Microsoft Word. Term papers, resumés, reports, spreadsheets etc. Call John @ 684-4595. (6 rings for messages.) $2/double spaced page or laser printer.

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Experienced editor. Student papers - transcription of tapes, preparations of resumés, translation Spanish/ English, English tutoring. 7 days/wk–10 min. walk. Marian, 288-0016.

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FOR SALE

Funky, Retro garage sale: Tons of exciting & cheap 40's to 70's clothing, accessories and jewelery for men and women. Sat., Oct. 15 & Sun., Oct. 16, 1 - 6 pm. 1788 Amherst St. between Ontario & de Maisonneuve. Metro Berri or Beaudry.

Moving Sale: must sell everything! Furniture, bicycle, appliances. Great deals. 596-0726.

For Sale: color TV & converter, $60. 737-8708.

APARTMENTS

Lofts in Old Montreal, close to Metro Victoria. Heated, sprinklered, high ceilings, low rent. 861-3787.

Avail. December 1, 3 1/2 (large dbl. room, large kitchen). $290 (unheated). 5 mins from Jean Talon Metro, 15 from J.T. Market. Call 272-9528 (8 am–8 pm)

Beautiful 3 1/2 near Loyola, $380, equipped, heating and hot water included. 731-9810.

4 1/2 to share w/ NS student. (F/T pref.) Excellent location! $310+, 932-0730.

Sublet: 3 1/2 with appliances, close to bus stop & metro, well located, Queen Mary Rd. Outdoor pool, sauna, laundry room. $375. Telephone: 989-7420.

HELP WANTED

***Attitude*, gay** & lesbian magazine in Montreal seeking aggressive tops or butch bottoms to sell advertising. Base salary + commission. Fax resumé to: 483-2492.

Non-paid job: need a bilingual Anglophone journalist for a French magazine. Call Pierre, 645-4308.

Representatives needed for distrbution of tree-free paper products. Only Eco-friendly, future-bright persons need apply. 934-4917, 538-0697.

Group Leader needed for Dawson Israel Semester Program–January 4 to May 15 1995. Qualifications: Experience working with youth, previous visit to Israel, knowledge of Hebrew. Contact N. Parry, Dawson College, 931-8731, loc. 1473 or 486-2076.

PERSONAL

Don't know who to trust? Call S&S Investigations. Private Investigations. Reasonable. Confidential. Jeff, 421-3125.

GENERAL

New York, New York. Thanksgiving weekend. From $139 quadruple occupancy. Including: transport, hotel, sightseeing, taxes, representative. Bus only $69 return. Pat, 354-3630.

Graduate Student get-togethers with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students this year on an informal basis. Sessions have been arranged for this purpose from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at our Graduate Administration Offices, 2145 Mackay Street, on the following dates: First Semester: Thursday, November 10, 1994. Second Semester: Tuesday, January 31, 1995; Monday, February 13, 1995. Our space is limited. Please reserve one of the above dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803. We look forward to seeing you.

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COOP CONCORDIA

BY-ELECTIONS
For the Board of Directors

Coop Concordia will be holding a Special General Assembly on **Monday October 24th 7:00 PM**, to elect 6 members to the Board of Directors. The meeting will be held in room H-762 of the Hall Building.

All interested applicants will be required to complete a nomination form containing the signatures of five other members in order to be eligible for the elections. Nomination forms are available at the Coop store located on the mezzanine level of the Hall Building.

The nomination period closes Saturday, October 22nd at 5:00pm.

BLOC MP defends gay rights

by Tim Pryor

Réal Ménard didn't plan on becoming the second member of parliament to publicly announce his homosexuality—at least not now.

However the 32-year-old Bloc member of parliament in the Montreal district of Hochelaga-Maisoneuve felt he had no choice when federal discussion on gay rights became mired in homophobic rhetoric.

"I was going to come out this November after the Bloc announces their same-sex policy," said the 32-year-old MP, whose East-End riding includes the gay village. "But I couldn't keep quiet after Skoke's remarks. I had to defend the community that I am a part of."

Last month, Nova Scotia MP Roseanne Skoke engaged in a homophobic tirade against the proposed Bill C-41. The new legislation would include homosexuals in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, thereby making it illegal to discriminate against gays and lesbians because of their orientation.

In a heated debate with Ménard and Vancouver MP Svend Robinson (also gay), Skoke said that the bill threatens Canadian moral and family values, and called the gay lifestyle "immoral and unnatural."

Réal Ménard: "The Bloc knew I was gay. They've reacted well."

Ménard said that her comments fall outside the acceptable boundaries of personal opinion.'

"She said that homosexuals were pedophiles and bestialists. These are criminal accusations," Ménard said.

Ménard and Robinson are calling for the Liberal party to reprimand Skoke. However, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said that Skoke would not face any disciplinary action, and has not asked her to apologize for her comments.

"It's worrisome that the Liberal party condoned what she said," Ménard said.

Although he publicly announced his sexual orientation during the C-41 debate, Ménard has never denied he was gay.

"When people noticed that I didn't have a wife or kids, they asked questions. And I told them I was gay."

"I've always known that I was gay," Ménard added. "I started living my gay life at 18, when I entered the bar scene."

And Ménard's announcement didn't catch his party by surprise, either.

"The Bloc knew I was gay. They've reacted well."

Ménard says he's received a surprisingly positive public response to his announcements.

"There's been no problems. I've gotten only letters of approval. People realize that being gay doesn't change my capacity for being an MP."

Ménard said that the bill will probably pass, despite opposition from some Liberals and the Reform Party. Meanwhile, he isn't blaming Skoke for her viewpoints.

"Mrs. Skoke has not had contact with the gay community. She doesn't face the discrimination that gays do," Ménard said. "We're members of society, we pay taxes, and we want to improve society."

Groups criticize Weight Watchers on campus

by Cathia Pagotto

Despite criticism from Canadian women's centres and eating disorder clinics, Concordia University is promoting the Weight Watchers program on campus.

Concordia's Human Resources department contacted Weight Watchers in May 1991 to initiate the first ten week session. Since then there have been seven such sessions at the Sir George Williams campus and six at the Loyola campus (the seventh one is currently ongoing).

The Weight Watchers program lasts ten weeks and costs $120.

"The philosophy behind Weight Watchers is what bothers me," says Colette Landry of the Women's Centre of Plateau Mont-Royal. "Weight Watchers is ultimately based on aesthetic improvement instead of healthy nutrition."

Landry adds that although Weight Watchers encourages healthy eating, participants generally lose weight through guilt and fear of being ashamed since they are weighed in front of the whole group. Landry also doesn't like the fact the company promotes their own food.

At the University of Toronto, a coalition composed of their Women's Centre, the Student Christian Movement and the Ontario Public Interest Group, has been protesting the Weight Watchers presence on campus.

The coalition says the company promotes eating disorders and poor self image among women. They are currently pushing the university to hire a nutritionist instead of promoting the weight loss program.

The Concordia chapter of the Quebec Public Interest and Research Group and Concordia's Women Centre were not aware of Concordia's involvement with Weight Watchers.

Diane Presseault, a spokesperson for Weight Watchers, argues that her company's program was designed by professional dietitians and nutritionists. She added that although those who give the programs aren't professionals, they have had eight weeks of training and have all had weight problems in the past.

Presseault confirmed that participants are still weighed in the same room as everyone else but that the information is kept between the animator and the client.

The coordinator of the Eating Disorders Clinic of the Douglas Hospital, Helene Gauthier, says that groups like Weight Watchers have a "be beautiful and thin and all will be well" approach.

"Loss of that weight rarely solves the problem," Gauthier said.

Concordia's Women Centre is trying to organize a body image group for next semester. For more information call at 848-7431.

The Eating Disorders Clinic is holding a meeting on November 8th at the Douglas in the Pavillon Dobell, Salle Bauerman. They will be discussing eating disorders. For more information call 761-6131-ext 2895.

For more information on body image related concerns you can also call the Women's Centre of the Plateau Mont-Royal at 527-2295.

Bosnian activist calls for restoration of hope

by Sarah Uriash

Victims of the war in the former Yugoslavia need to reclaim their self-respect and dignity above all else, according to a Bosnian activist.

Dr. Faiza Mustovic, a former professor of chemistry at the University of Sarajevo and a Bosnian refugee, spoke at Concordia last week about the current situation in the former Yugoslavia, and the rekindling of the human spirit.

"I am not here asking for any humanitarian aid. We want to work. We have our rights. We want to live," Mustovic said.

Mustovic is a founding member and former director of *Biser*, a women's self-help group based in Croatia. Biser is an organization that provides medical and psychological support to victims of sexual torture. Since the Spring of 1992, the Serbian forces have engaged in the systemic rape and torture of Bosnians and Muslims as part of their policy of ethnic cleansing.

Here on a 10-day visit to Quebec and Ontario, she is meeting with various organizations and address the plight of the Bosnians. Currently, Mustovic is also involved in a project called Boswofam, which not only provides assistance to refugee women, but also Bosnian orphans and children who have been separated from their parents. She is setting-up bank accounts in Montreal in the name of the 6,000 war orphans.

Mustovic, who was born in Sarajevo, called the war-ravaged city her "main occupation." The city has been under constant bombardment by Serbian troops for over two years. She pleaded tearfully with an audience of approximately 100 people to remember her place of birth as a "civilized place" and not the mortar-ripped city it has now become.

Mustovic attested to the massive, organized and systemic detention, rape and slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people. She confirmed the omnipresence of humiliation, degradation and genocide.

But Mustovic declined to comment further on the atrocities of Serbian ethnic-cleansing, saying she was not interested in using her lecture as a "political forum." Despite an international call for Serbian military and political leaders to be tried for crimes against humanity, Mustovic added that she is not interested in seeking retribution.

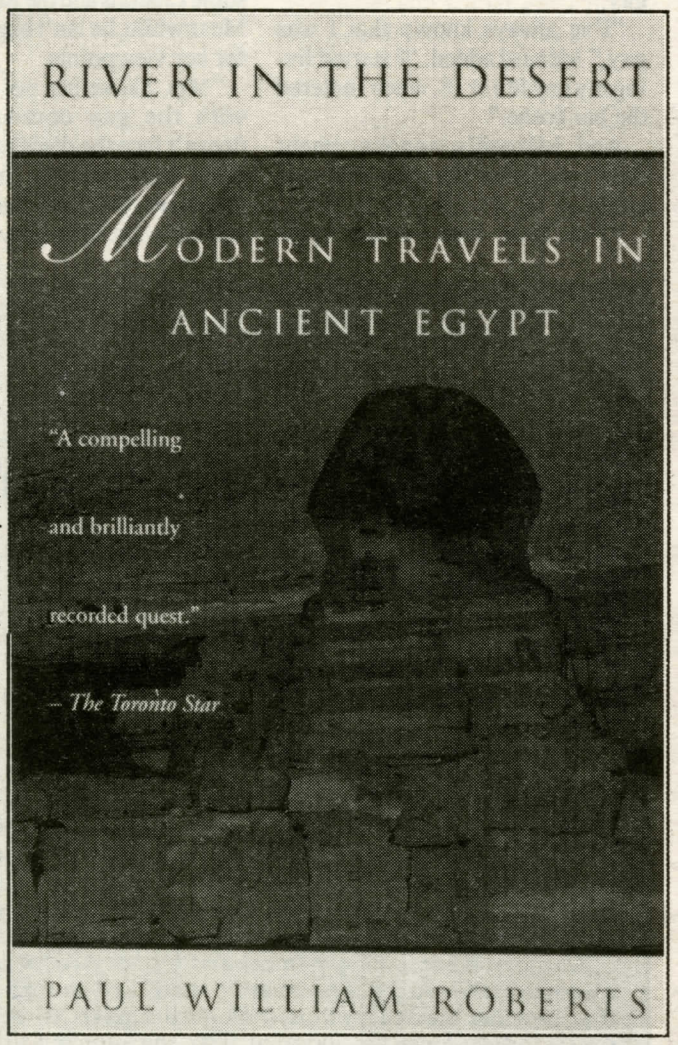
Mustovic says her concern, and that of Biser, is for the Bosnian women who have lost hope. She explained that many women, battered by fear and shame fear they have been abandoned by the rest of the world She added that many have already tried to put the horror behind them by fleeing to other countries.

Mustovic concluded the lecture by calling students "an important element in the democratic process," who must apply pressure on the Canadian government to intervene in the Bosnian-Serbian war in order to effect change.

Modern and ancient Egypt

by Nathan Whitlock

At a time when literature is dividing itself into ever narrower, hair-splitting sub-ghettoes, travel literature remains somewhat of a hybrid, seething beast. Though sitting, incongruously, alongside vapid guidebooks, travel works by such luminaries as Paul Theroux, V.S. Naipaul, Graham Greene, and (especially) Bruce Chatwin are set apart by the firm conviction that the realities of a country cannot be captured in a post card or on videotape.


RIVER IN THE DESERT
MODERN TRAVELS IN ANCIENT EGYPT
"A compelling and brilliantly recorded quest."
– The Toronto Star
PAUL WILLIAM ROBERTS

Even so, there is little reason for someone a tourist in Egypt to pack Paul William Roberts' *River in the Desert*.

Roberts' intention, alluded to in the book's subtitle, (Modern Travels in Ancient Egypt) is to attempt to peer through the cracks in Egypt's touristic facade. To accomplish this, Roberts immerses himself in the myriad elements that make up Egypt, both modern and ancient. He emerges with a singularly ambitious and ebullient work that is part memoir, part (revisionist) history, and part sociological drama.

Roberts wisely resists the urge to turn this into a sombre or polemic tome. However, he is inescapably, a 20th Century urban being. As such, he is more finely attuned to the absurd and vulgar than the sacred or pure. Episodes of grotesque comic farce litter the book. At one point, in a moment of profound spiritual inspiration, Roberts decides to follow the footsteps of Moses up Mt. Sinai:

Turning another hairpin bend, I stopped dead in my tracks. Three hundred feet away, in the shadow of an overhang, an enormous angel stood, wings outstretched, glowing with a pale, yolky light. My heart raced.

So soon, I thought; maybe God had a lot on his mind. I squinted at the vaguely amorphous form. It was definitely white and illumined from within. After all, this was holy ground. Was I ready for this encounter after all? What did the angel want?

I edged closer, wanting to find this apparition had a more mundane explanation. But it was only when, shivering with fright, I'd got within twenty yards of this being that I saw the large, tentlike sheet suspended from a tree with some kind of lamp burning inside it. Plodding closer, I found a kind of makeshift shop selling soft drinks, cigarettes, candy bars, with a turbaned Bedouin snoring robustly, slumped over a folding table.

As brilliant as the individual parts are, they fall just short of adding up to an equally impressive whole. In attempting to cover so much ground, *River in the Desert* resembles more a collection of individual essays than a cohesive work. The reader is so overwhelmed by the breadth of the subject matter that, at times, the attempts to impose the actual chronology of Roberts' travels - and thus rein all the disparate elements into a narrative - becomes intrusive and irritating.

Ultimately, *River in the Desert* can be forgiven for these weaknesses. Paul William Roberts is a wonderful writer - and good writing has a tendency of wiping away just about all reservations.

Furthermore, while the current literary mania is for the small, simple, and intimate, an overreaching ambition is a welcome gush of hot air.

River in the Desert: Modern Travels in Ancient Egypt
by Paul William Roberts
Vintage

by Connie C. Wu

Poetry

Underwire

Underwire,
why can't you be soft,
flexible,
and comfortable?
I put you on
because you lift
and suport,
they say.
But all day,
I can feel your
cold, stell sharpness
piercing, prickling
and pinching
my skin annoyingly.
And when I take
you off,
I see the red
imprintations of
your form
on my chubby skin.

Second Nature

overexcretion of the glands
like oozing mucus
reemergence of hot stickiness
between buttery fingers
moist and slippery
smells like lack
of oral hygiene
this bodily fluid
disgusting, gross
I call it
abnormalities in my eyes
but second nature
to him

Cheesecake

My mother cut the string
of the cake box,
and disassembled it slowly,
revealing a mass of sweetness,
its gooey glory
displayed in the light,
like some heavenly angel
come to relieve me
in my crisis,
come to give me guidance.
Oh yes,
it is heavenly,
the sinful cheesecake
I devour.

Visible Alienation

I sit in class
feeling no alienation
but I notice
that among the
white faces
I am the only
visible minority
living in the reality
of my race
from day to day.
Do they notice?
Can they tell?
Probably not,
because it is I
who lives it,
and not they.

Fragile

dejected, obliterated by failure
I fall prey to social concepts
I can't explain or understand
unaware of sudden impact
crushing my skull
like a paper thin box
empty, void of logic
sporadic and juxtaposed
it all feels strangely numb

HOW TO REACH THE LINK, A USERS GUIDE

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theLink@alcor.concordia.ca

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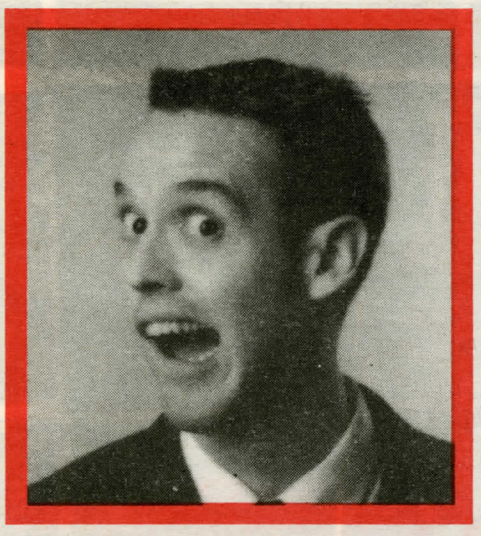
FATSO is a good word, CON U's ANNE THEATRE helps orphans



This is *NOT* Pat Donnelly...

by David King

A young boy appears on the stage and waits for the audience to get a good look at him. He isn't a 'freak', he looks just like you and me. Except for one difference: He's FATSO.

Youtheatre kicks off its two-play season with the world premiere of acclaimed Canadian playwright Carol Bolt's FATSO, on tour in elementary schools throughout Quebec for the next five months. Bolt, formerly the playwright-in-residence at Concordia, is noted for her work in children's theatre and scripts for television shows like Fraggle Rock. This time around she takes a bit more of a didactic approach to theatre by touching on a sensitive issue: body image.

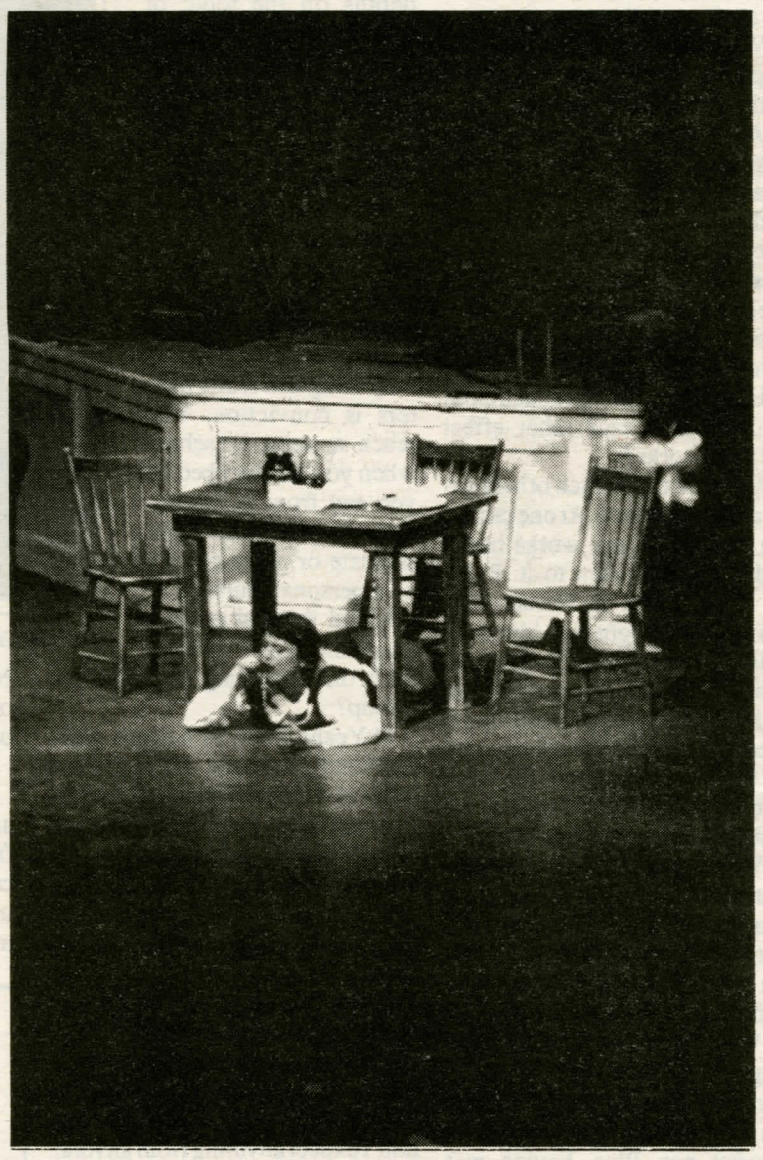
Toby (Kevin Ryder) is an overweight kid who can't dance, doesn't believe in magic, and won't look in the mirror. Through his own desires, he is transported to the fairy tale world of Rotunda the princess (Quancetia Hamilton), Reflexia her reflection (Elizabeth Robertson), and the terrible big bully of a Giant (Martin Sims). With Rotunda's help, Toby ends up doing everything we want him to: believe in magic, ward off big bullies, look in the mirror, dance, sing, and go back to his own world feeling much better about himself. Sound kitsch? Of course it is, and sometimes nauseatingly kitsch. But for all the right reasons: to encourage pre-teen youths to like themselves before they grow up and start shoving fingers down their throats.

Bolt takes note of the children's reactions while watching the premiere performance: "As soon as Toby appears, the kids are laughing at him because he's fat. By the end of the show, they're not laughing. They're with him all the way." Though the audience was mainly compose of adults on Friday evening's premiere, her point is valid.

Still, the only thing saving FATSO from falling into the 'flat' category is Bolt's always imaginative story and the toe-tapping musical score by Cathy Nosaty. Although the West Indies flavor of Nosaty's Little Mermaid-ish "Everybody has to Dance A Little" was charming, the flawed direction of Michel Lefebvre and Tom Carson and Ryder and Robert's underdeveloped acting of made it difficult to stay interested in Toby's self-esteem, nor what happened with it. Hamilton, as Rotunda and later Clarise, steals the show with her charismatic energy and fabulous voice.

The portable set, magically designed by Raymond Marius Boucher, is very appropriate. It consists of a fold-out magician's backdrop, as well as an accordian-like large tube that falls from the ceiling, to act as the transporter to Fairy Land, and later the tropical paradise. Huge dumbells straight out of a cartoon are present for the stand-off between FATSO and Giant, the latter showing off his dextrous ability with the dumbell as he twirls it around his hand.

Bolt's message is clear, and FATSO is worth seeing just for that message. As the show is just beginning a five month tour, check it out once it has had a few good runs, in about a month or so. Until then, keep your eye open where it's playing, and call Youtheatre to reserve tickets, at 844-8781.



DIANA BERRY (PLAYED BY STEPHANIE MCLEAN) DRINKS HERSELF UNDER THE TABLE. ANNE OF GREEN GABLES IS PLAYING TILL SUNDAY ONLY AT THE FD.B. CLARKE THEATRE IN THE HFALL BUILDING.

ConcordiANNE of Green Gables

While FATSO devours a new lesson for children, ANNE OF GREEN GABLES devours the Canadian musical market once again. This time around, however, it's not just ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: it's CONCORDIA'S ANNE OF GREEN GABLES, and it's just under your feet in the D.B. Clarke Theatre (in the basement of the Hall Bldg.) after a success both at Concordia and in Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Lucy Maud Montgomery's Avonlea classic, Canada's biggest piece of family entertainment, has been musically adapted by Donald Harron and Norman Campbell. It's not surprising that it's also one of the biggest musicals of Hong Kong, having played in almost every Hong Kong resident theatre over the last few decades.

Director Cheryl Neill explains one of the reasons for ANNE's glorified success: "I think one of the reasons it's popular in Japan is because they study it as a book in their introduction to English. I think they have an idea right from the beginning of who Anne is. It also represents the West in many ways. For us, it represents our innocence. When we watch the play, we see young innocent love, and its the kind of thing people remember and look back on."

I suggested ANNE's popularity in Hong Kong might also be due to the admiration of Anne by many oppressed women, and that most of ANNE's Hong Kong audiences have been composed of women.

"Definitely, absolutely", she responded. "In fact, that was a point made by a Chinese lady who interviewed us from a television program over there. She was saying that for her, that was the main draw, the fact that nobody wants this girl as she grows up and yet she becomes a young liberated woman."

Whatever the reason for ANNE's popularity, Concordia's theatre department has been very successful in not only entertaining Canadian and Hong Kong audiences, but in representing Concordia's theatre department, as well. West Island 'amateur theatre activist' Margo Dickie first approached Louise Chalmers and the Concordia Theatre Department about taking ANNE to the American Community Theatre's production at the Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts, where several countries have been represented each year and where Canada was chosen to be commissioned to perform for this year.

After putting together a proposed cast, including director Neill and musical director Allan Crossman, ANNE was in rehearsals and finally on its way. The portable set, designed by former theatre faculty member Linda Bathory, is perfect for creating the ambiance ANNE deserves, yet portable enough to "to be packed into two Air Canada crates". The opening gala performances in both countries raised funds for the Mother's Choice Orphanage in Hong Kong, to appropriate adopted children and assist young pregnant women who have chosen to give their babies up for adoption. Part of the proceeds from this week's show will also be donated. The "situation", Neill comments, "is that baby girls in Hong Kong are either killed or left behind, unviable in terms of family. Mother's Choice has started an orphanage there for mothers to be able to have their babies, and to put children up for adoption rather that have abortions or whatever."

The story of a young Nova Scotian orphan who is sent to P.E.I. is the perfect parallel to all of the fundraising ANNE has been able to make available through its' performances. More than that, Neill brings us a fresh approach, choosing to develop all of the characters, rather than just the four central ones - something 18 Concordia theatre students are very happy about. Neill has also added some 'down-home' spoon rhythms and a fiddler to the small-town setting of Avonlea, just for that hick folk flavour ANNE is all about.

Concerning future performances of the show after this week's run, Neill said, "We're getting some feelers out there to see if there's any other interests, and if there is, we're off again."

And for some reason, I think she means Anne herself.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES *is playing at the* D.B. Clarke Theatre *until Sunday, October 16. Tickets are $10, $8 for students. Call 848-4737 for information.*

The Raza Group: A bark as bad as their bite

by Sean Moore

In 1988, a group of local artists converged in a small Mexican ghetto known as *Raza*. Each one of them came from different backgrounds and each one brought with them their own experiences, views and skills.

Amidst the packs of wild dogs, piles of garbage and the scornful glances, **Scott MacLeod**, **Francis Caprani** and **Gerry Pedros** came together to form *The Raza Group*.. Known for their hyper-political paintings that once adorned walls from the former St.Laurent bar, Hells Kitchen to warehouse structures in Dublin, Germany and Mexico, I had a chance to sit down and talk. No big whoop!

Upon meeting with Scott MacLeod and Francis Caprani one bleak afternoon inside a local pub, I immediately began to anticipate my decision to parlez with the group's two Quebec residents.

Frank Caprani sat huddled around his pint of Guinness, clean-shaven save a wild shock of hair flowing from the back of his skull. He sat scowling with a roll-your-own smoking between his tightly clenched jaws. Closer still, but recessed into the shadows loomed his youthful counterpart, Scott MacLeod. I felt nervous and a little put off by their inside humour, but that quickly dissipated.

Link:What incident(s) consolidated The Raza Group?:

Raza:Well I had met Francis through a teacher I had at Concordia, Gerry Pedros, the third member of the group. He was my lithography teacher and he really piqued my interest. Even though his class was a litho class, Gerry still wanted to see our work from before ...unrelated works from our past. It was great, he took a real interest in his students. He ended up inviting me down to his studio a few times. This is where I met Francis, who was Gerry's partner at the time ...shortly after that, I received a grant from the government and took off to the Banff Center of Fine Arts. Even though I was no longer in the same city as them , we still kept in touch wit each other. Eventually I was invited to participate in an exchange program with Gerry and Francis. That's how we arrived in Mexico. Well Raza, to be exact, ...hence the name.

L:Is there a story behind the name of group?:

R:La Raza is as you already know, the slum in which we stayed. The actual word "Raza", translates into the first race, or the first Indian race. As for our logo.....We wanted to use something that was symbolic of where we were. Because of the rampant infestation of wild dogs, that we became used to seeing day after day, ...We decided to use it in our logo.

L:What is The Raza Groups prime directive?:

R:Well, what we try to do with the group is create an open forum between La Raza's members and the viewing public at large.

L:Why did the artists within the group decide to be 'that'? Why did you decide to work as a group?:

R:Just because we work well as a group doesn't mean that our individual work is eliminated completely. As a group , we have the ability to explore more creative avenues. We are also privy to a lot more constructive criticism. It's like the old addeage...Four heads are better then one.

L:How does working in such close proximity with each other effect your final works?:

R:We feed off of each others energy and exuberance. At one point a large number of our works had a decidedly Celtic slant to it. Probably due in part to Franks Irish roots that he brought with him from Dublin and the fact that I was raised by an Irish family. It's not uncommon for you to look at a piece that is signed by.....Frank or Gerry, and right there in the center of the work will be a portion form one of the members works. Appropriation.

L:You had mentioned something about how your work, at one point had a distinct Celtic quality to it. What happened to that quality or have you just put it on the backburner for now?:

R: Well, like I said, ...When I was younger, music played a big part in my creative process, and at the time I was listening to a lot of Irish bands and what not. Plus, having met Francis, who at one time was an angry, fiery rabble-rouser ...this led to an explosive, highly charged atmosphere. Not to mention political.

L:Both Scott and Frank were once Concordia Fine Arts students, while Gerry was a Concordia professor. What words of wisdom can draw from your depths on the topic of school and art?:

R:Academics can only bring you so far. Some people go to school because they don't know what else to do with themselves. Others go to school because they need someone to stand over them and hand out assignments. You can get technical knowledge or history, but the only thing that really matters is conviction. You reach a point in school when you've absorbed all you can from an institution. At that point, you stagnate or move on. It's all a personal journey.

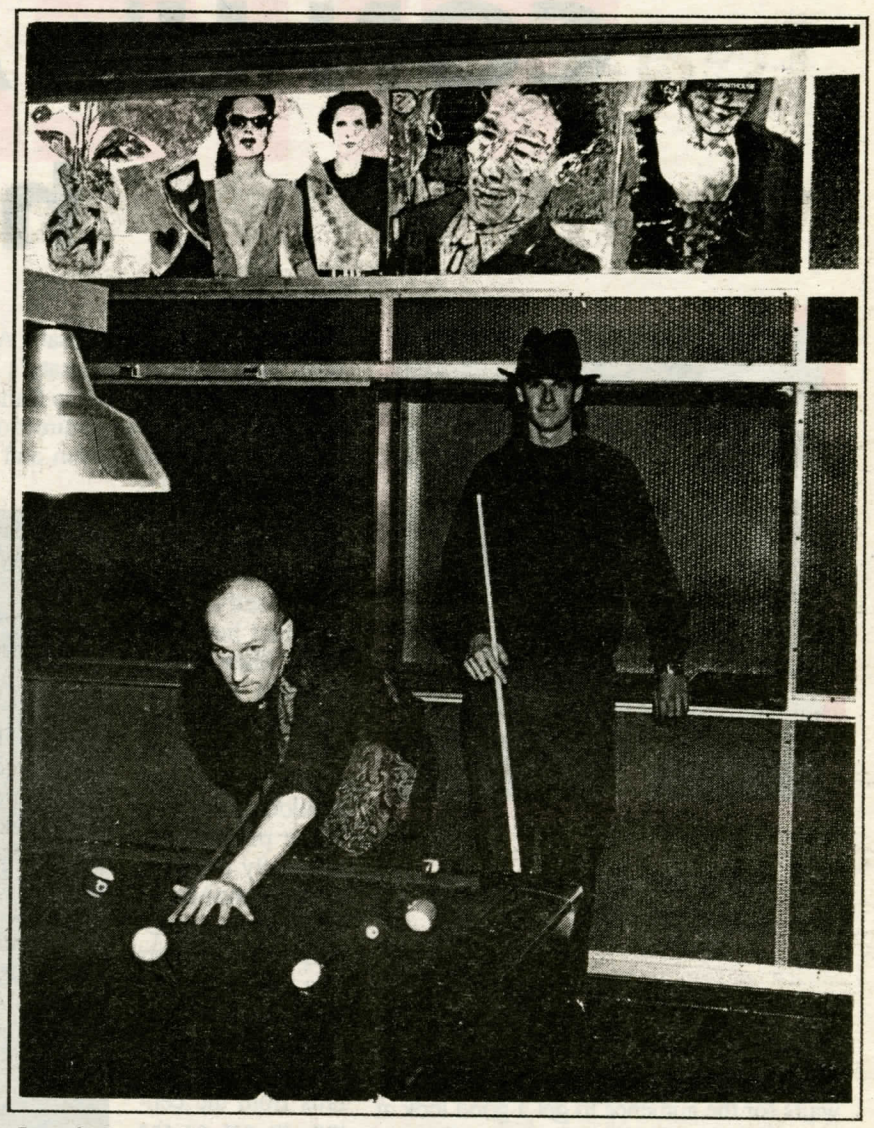
L:Did the end of your academic career coincide with the beginning of The Raza Group?:

R:Yeah! Well, in a sense yeah. Definitely, we had all reached a point at which we broke off and did our own thing. I realized it was time when I just got sick of going in and what I was doing at home. The moment I started doing my work on my own was when I realized it was time.

L:Do you have any advice for artists either in school or out.

R:Have conviction. Believe in yourself. Egos are good to have, especially if you deserve one and don't expect anything from anyone. No one owes you shit and no one gives a fuck whether you sink or swim. Do it for yourself.

The Raza Group does not have any up-and-coming shows, aside from one in Detroit. But their work can be seen in the meantime adorning the walls and tables of Le Swimming bar on St.Laurent.



Francis Caprani and Scott MacLeod shoot stick while their works look on.

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Women's rugby team ends winning streak

by Steve Knodell

"I guarantee this will not happen again," insisted Concordia's assistant rugby coach Chris Regimbal after the women's rugby team tied MacDonald 10-10 on Wednesday night.

"The past three or four games, the girls have come out flat. The game would start, but it would take us ten or fifteen minutes before we'd start to play. Today it took ... how many minutes are in a game? seventy?

"...and there was still no intensity," the coach said.

Surprisingly enough, Concordia entered the game undefeated and soundly in first place, while MacDonald languished in last.

With Macdonald College celebrating as if it had just won the Stanley Cup, the Stingers calmly walked back to their dressing room as if nothing had happened. No anger. No frustration. No emotion. Nothing.

This was a day of firsts for the Stingers: none of them good.

For the first time this season, Concordia's opponents scored a try, reached double-digits against the league's stingiest defensive team, and for the first time in 26 regular season matches, Concordia's opponents were not defeated.

Up until Wednesday's game, in their last six games, the Stingers had allowed only 6 points to be scored against them.

Anne Coyle ran in both tries for Concordia, giving the Stingers a 5 point lead in each half, lead that the team was not able to protect.

On her first try, Coyle took advantage of some confusion at the MacDonald goal line, jumping on a loose ball that nobody seemed to want, scoring the games first points, 5-0 for Concordia.

But minutes later, Mac responded with a try of their own to tie the score at 5, causing injured forward Dia Hurtubise to shout in disbelief "We let Mac score against us."

Stay tuned Dia...it gets worse.

Early in the second half, Coyle again tried to spark her team to life by outhustling and plowing through MacDonald defenders. Her persistence gave Concordia a 10-5 lead.

With about five minutes left in the match and MacDonald pressing, the Mac scrumhalf burst around the fallen scrum, outrunning stunned Stinger backs for an uncontested try, tying the match at 10.

The ball was downed right between the uprights, which provided a glorious opportunity for the Mac kicker to put her team ahead by 2 points with minutes left to play.

As the Mac kicker ran to the ball, so did Concordia's tallest players, who were able to block the low kick, preserving the tie.

"A tie to Mac won't lead to the demise of our team," coach Regimbal explained. "If anything, it should motivate us for the finals. This might be the kick in the you-know-what that this team needs to get our intensity back."

STANDINGS

Football-OQIFC

Team	GP	GW	GL	T	PF	PA	PTS
1. Concordia	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**148**	**77**	**8**
2. Ottawa	5	4	1	0	145	117	8
3. Bishop's	5	2	3	0	120	83	4
4. McGill	5	2	3	0	111	119	4
5. Carleton	5	2	3	0	65	159	4
6. Queen's	5	1	4	0	106	140	2

Women's soccer

Team	GP	GW	GL	T	PF	PA	PTS
1. McGill	5	5	0	0	25	0	10
2. Sherbrooke	4	2	1	1	10	4	5
3. UQTR	5	1	1	3	4	3	5
4. Concordia	**5**	**0**	**2**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**3**
5. Bishop's	5	0	4	1	0	28	1

Men's soccer

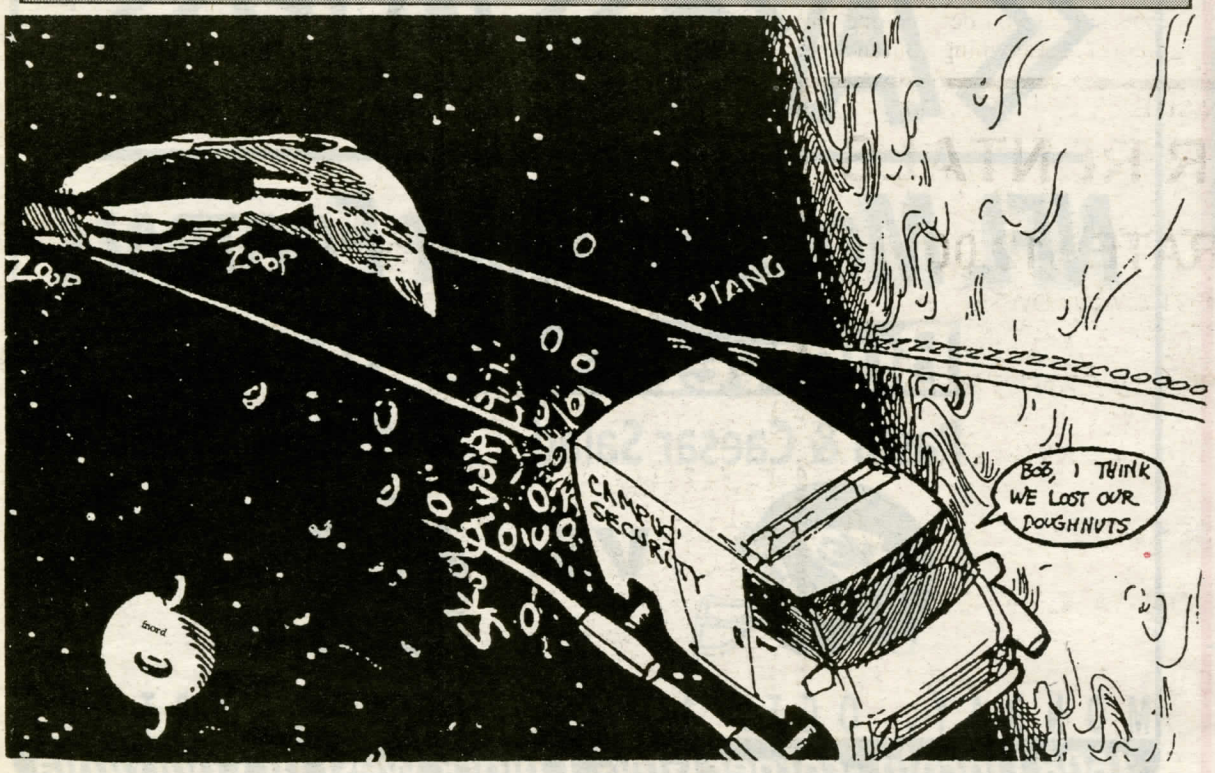
Team	GP	GW	GL	T	PF	PA	PTS
1. Sherbrooke	7	5	1	1	10	6	11
2. McGill	6	3	1	2	8	2	8
3. UQTR	7	4	3	0	15	10	8
4. UQAM	6	2	2	2	7	7	6
5. Concordia	**6**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**7**	**14**	**3**
6. Bishop's	6	1	5	0	6	14	2

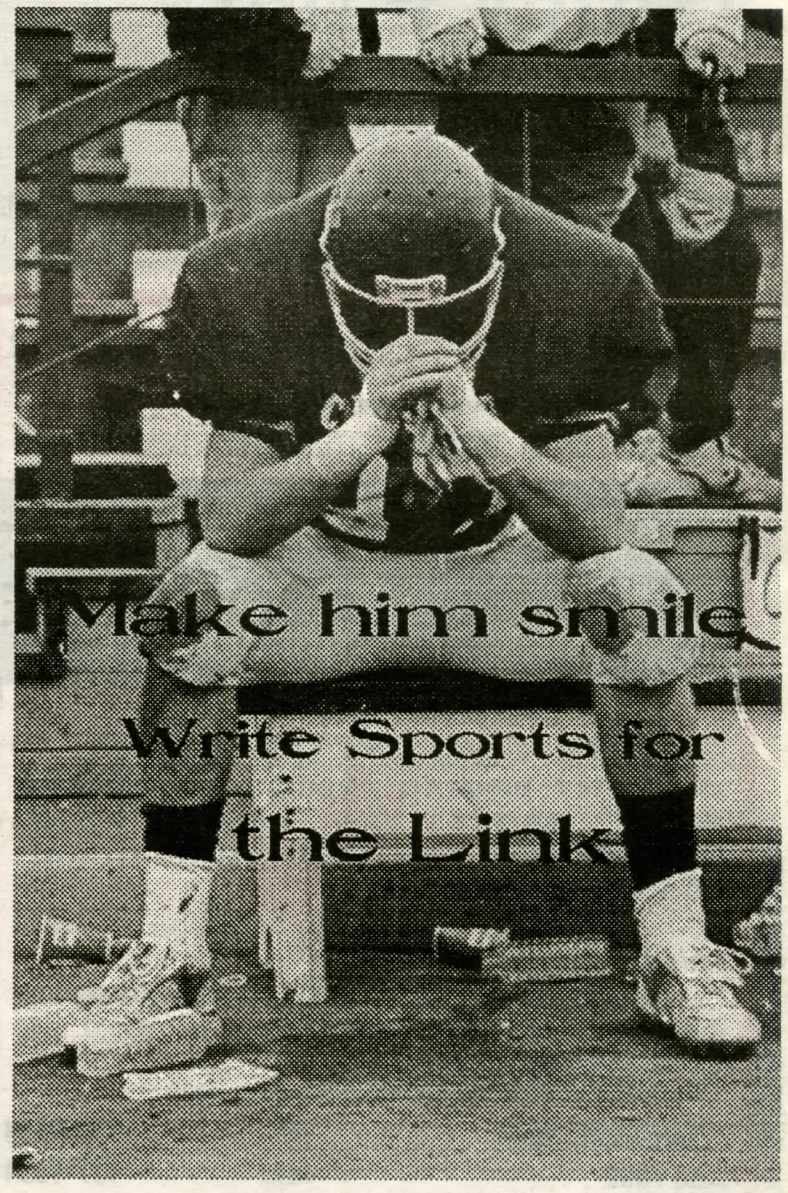
IN BRIEF...

-The women's soccer team's defense was strong enough to stop UQTR's attack. Unfortunately, they didn't score any goals, and tied 0-0, last Sunday. The Stingers will be visiting Bishop's on Saturday, at 3:00.

-The men's team was not luckier as they were defeated 3-2 by UQTR, on the same day. They will also visit the Gaiters, but two hours before the women.

- The football team was stopped in its four-games winning streak by Ottawa, who managed to tie in first place of the OQIFC. They lost to the Bee-gee's, 16-25, last Saturday. The Stingers have a big game coming up this weekend as they will host the McGill Redmen for the Shrine Bowl, at 1:00 pm.





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The Canadian government is currently issuing permanent resident visas under the "Independent Category" to qualified professionals and skilled persons.

Employer sponsorship is not required.

For an assessment of your qualifications at no charge we invite you to communicate with us.

2 Place Alexis Nihon
Suite 1802
3500 de Maisonneuve O.

Tel: 937-9554
Fax: 937-9554
email: csinger@cam.org

CAESARS

NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Budweiser $2.50
Pasta & Caesar Salad $3.00
tax included

VS.

MONDAY, OCT. 17 NFL HEADQUARTERS
1608 Lincoln -corner Guy- 1 block west of Concordia